

REMARKS

Claims 75, 77, 79-83, 87-89, and 93-124 were pending and under examination but have been canceled. New claims 125-149 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as filed. In particular, support can be found, for example, in original claims 8-11 and 69-72, and on page 12, lines 8-26, and page 50, lines 20-23 and 28-32. Accordingly, these new claims do not raise an issue of new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. Accordingly, these new claims do not raise an issue of new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. Entry of the proposed amendments is respectfully submitted to be proper because the amendments are believed to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants appreciate the indication by Examiner Canella that claims 82, 88, 94, 97, 99-102, 110, 111, 114, 115, 118, 119, 122 and 123 are allowable and that claims 107 and 120 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For convenience, Applicants have canceled the previous claims and added new claims 125-149 so that the appropriate claims are rewritten in independent form and the dependent claims are listed in numerical order. A table of concordance showing the previous claim and the corresponding new claim is shown in Appendix A. Based on the concordance between claims 125-131 and 136-149 with those indicated to be allowable, Applicants submit that these new claims should be considered allowable. Further, based on the comments in the Office Action regarding the obviousness rejection, Applicants submit that new claims 132-135 should also be considered allowable.

The rejection of claims 75, 77, 80, 81, 83, 87, 89, 96, 98, 103-106, 108, 109, 112, 113, 116, 117, 121 and 124 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly obvious over Comb et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,441,140, in view of Brodeur et al., J. Biol. Chem. 272:19777-19784 (1997), is respectfully traversed. Applicants maintain, for the reasons of record, that these claims are unobvious over Comb et al., alone or in combination with Brodeur et al. Nevertheless, this rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 75, 77, 80, 81, 83, 87, 89, 96, 98, 103-106, 108, 109, 112, 113, 116, 117, 121 and 124. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In light of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to this effect. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent if there are any questions.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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